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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **DANCER, Jacqui** [AU/AU]; 14 Lombard Street, GLEBE, New South Wales 2037 (AU).

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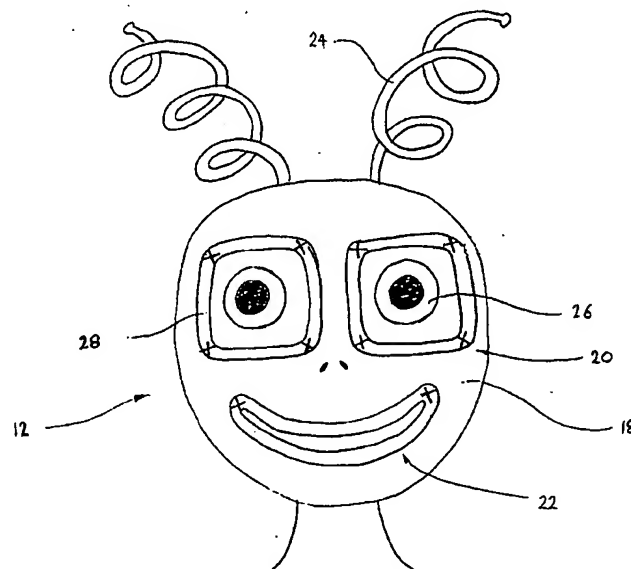
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(74) Agent: **GRIFFITH HACK**; GPO Box 4164, Sydney, NSW 2001 (AU).

(54) Title: A DOLL



(57) Abstract: A doll including a head (12), a torso and limbs in the form of arms and legs. The doll includes a face (18) having particular facial elements such as eyes (20), a mouth (22) and a pair of antennae (24). Each eye (20) includes an eyeball (26) and an eye rim (28). The eye rim (28) is formed from an elongate member of an endless loop configuration. The eye rim (28) is stitched to the face (18) at four locations and is constructed from a core material about which a decorative liner is disposed. The core material may be a light gauge rod of a plastically deformable material such as wire. Thus the eye rims (28) and other facial features can be manipulated by hand to vary their shapes and thus the facial expression of the doll.

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A DOLL

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a doll and
5 relates particularly, though not exclusively, to a doll
including facial features which can be manipulated to vary
its expression.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 US patent No 5,215,493 describes a stuffed toy in the
configuration of a pickle. The stuffed toy has changeable
facial expressions in relation to the eyes and mouth. The
eyes and mouth are formed from a stud which pierces the
stuffed toy and is held in position via a washer. The
15 remainder of the eyes or mouth are formed from a vinyl
panel cut out in a crescent-shape and rotationally mounted
to the stuff toy via the stud and washer arrangement. The
expression of the stuffed toy may be changed by rotating
the eyes and/or mouth panels which are made of a stiff
20 material such as vinyl.

US Patent Nos. 5376040 and 5800242 also disclose dolls or
toys including facial features which can be manipulated
to, for example, selectively achieve a wide variety of
25 moods or expressions. US 5376040 describes a doll
including a mouth in the form of an elastic band which is
resilient wherein the mouth is temporarily deformed using
a pair of fingers and thereafter the mouth returns to its
undeformed configuration. US 5800242 describes a toy
30 including a skeleton structure of a plastically deformable
material, the reinforcing frame of the skeleton structure
being embedded in the material such as the rubber
moulding.

35 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a
doll comprising a face having one or more facial elements

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each being representative of a facial feature and fixed to an exposed surface of the face at at least one location, each of the facial elements being constructed of a plastically deformable material which can be manipulated whereupon it retains its manipulated shape to change the shape of the facial feature and thus the facial expression of the doll.

Preferably each of the facial elements includes an elongate member of an endless loop configuration. More preferably the elongate member is in the form of the facial feature of a mouth or an eye's rim.

Typically the facial element is stitched or otherwise adhered to the surface of the face. More typically the facial element of the endless loop configuration is stitched or otherwise adhered at two opposite and distant locations to the surface of the face thereby fixing said element whilst maximising the forms into which the facial feature can be manipulated.

Preferably the elongate member of the facial element includes a relatively light gauge rod of a plastically deformable material such as a wire or plastic material. More preferably the light gauge rod is a core material about which a decorative liner is disposed.

Generally the face is fabricated from a pliable fabric such as velour.

30

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order to achieve a better understanding of the nature of the present invention a preferred embodiment of a doll will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

35

Figure 1 is a front view of two variants of a doll;
Figure 2 is an enlarged view of a face of one of the

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dolls of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is the face of Figure 2 shown with various facial expressions.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in Figure 1 there are two forms of a doll both designated generally as 10 including a head 12, a torso 14 and limbs 16 in the form of arms and legs. The doll 10 of this embodiment is fabricated as a stuffed doll and
10 generally represents a distinctive looking alien.

As best shown in Figures 2 and 3 the head 12 of the doll 10 includes a face 18 having particular facial elements. In this embodiment the facial elements include its eyes
15 shown generally as 20, a mouth 22, and a pair of antenna such as 24. Thus, each of the facial elements is representative of a facial feature of the doll 10.

Each of the eyes such as 20 includes an eyeball 26 which
20 is in the form of a button fixed to the head 12, and an eye rim 28. The eye rim 28 is formed from an elongate member of an endless loop configuration. The eye rim 28 is in this example stitched to the face 18 at four (4) spaced apart location. The eye rim 28 is constructed from
25 a core material about which a decorative liner is disposed. The core material is in this example a relatively light gauge rod of a plastically deformable material such as a wire or plastic material. The decorative liner is of a satin or other appropriate
30 decorative fabric.

The eye rims such as 28 can thus be manipulated by hand to vary the shape of this particular facial feature and thus the facial expression of the doll 10. The plastically
35 deformable material from which the eye rims 28 are constructed together with their spaced apart fixing to the face 18 permit this varied manipulation of the facial

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feature.

The mouth 22 is similarly constructed of an elongate member of an endless loop configuration. The mouth 22 is initially shaped in its curved configuration of Figure 2 and stitched to the face 18 at two (2) opposite and distant locations. Thus, the mouth 22 which is also constructed from the plastically deformable material can be manipulated into a variety of shapes and forms indicative of a particular facial expression.

The alien doll 10 of this embodiment includes the pair of antenna such as 24 fixed to and protruding from the head 12. Each of the antenna such as 24 is formed of the same material as the mouth 22 and eye rims 28. However, the antenna 24 are anchored or otherwise fixed to the head 12 at one end only with a free end allowing the antenna 24 to be manipulated into a variety of positions. Additionally, the antenna 24 may be twisted, spiralled or straightened depending on the general "mood" or facial expression which is to be conveyed by the doll 10.

The stuffed doll 10 of this embodiment is lined in a soft fabric such as velour. This soft and pliable fabric tends to "move" together with the facial features so as to increase the range of configurations in which the facial features may be manipulated. Particular features, such as the mouth 22, may also be manipulated 3-dimensionally with, for example, a lower lip of the mouth being raised outwardly and upwardly to overlap the upper lip. Otherwise, the face 18 of the doll 10 can be manipulated into a variety of shapes and corresponding facial expressions. Figure 3 indicates some of the possible configurations and expressions of the doll 10 of this embodiment of the invention.

Now that a preferred embodiment of the present invention

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has been described in some detail, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the doll has at least the following advantages:

- the facial expression of the doll can be varied by
5 manipulating and thus deforming one or more of its facial features;
(i) the facial expression of the doll can be varied by manipulating and thus deforming one or more of its facial features;
10 (ii) the doll is relatively simple in construction where, for example, the facial features are merely fixed to the face of the doll; and
(iii) the doll is relatively versatile and adaptable for use by both children and adults as a toy for stress
15 relief.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described.
20 For example, the facial features may be constructed of practically any material which can be plastically deformed to vary and retain its shape, such as a deformable plastic material possibly in the form of a foam. The facial feature may be fixed to the face via an adhesive or
25 fastener although the stitching described is preferable.

All such variations and modifications are to be considered within the scope of the present invention the nature of which is to be determined from the foregoing description.

30 It is to be understood that, if any prior art information is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the information forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or any
35 other country.

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CLAIMS:

1. A doll comprising a face having one or more facial elements each being representative of a facial feature and
5 fixed to an exposed surface of the face at at least one location, each of the facial elements being constructed of a plastically deformable material which can be manipulated whereupon it retains its manipulated shape to change the shape of the facial feature and thus the facial expression
10 of the doll.
2. A doll as defined in claim 1 wherein each of the facial elements includes an elongate member of an endless loop configuration.
15
3. A doll as defined in claim 2 wherein the elongate member is in the form of the facial feature of a mouth or an eye's rim.
- 20 4. A doll as defined in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the facial element is stitched or otherwise adhered to the surface of the face.
5. A doll as defined in claim 4 wherein the facial
25 element of the endless loop configuration is stitched or otherwise adhered at two opposite and distant locations to the surface of the face thereby fixing said element whilst maximising the forms into which the facial feature can be manipulated.
30
6. A doll as defined in any one of the claims 2 to 5 wherein the elongate member of the facial element includes a relatively light gauge rod of a plastically deformable material such as a wire or plastic material.
35
7. A doll as defined in claim 6 wherein the light gauge rod is a core material about which a decorative liner is

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disposed.

8. A doll as defined in any one of the preceding claims
wherein the face is fabricated from a pliable fabric such
5 as velour.

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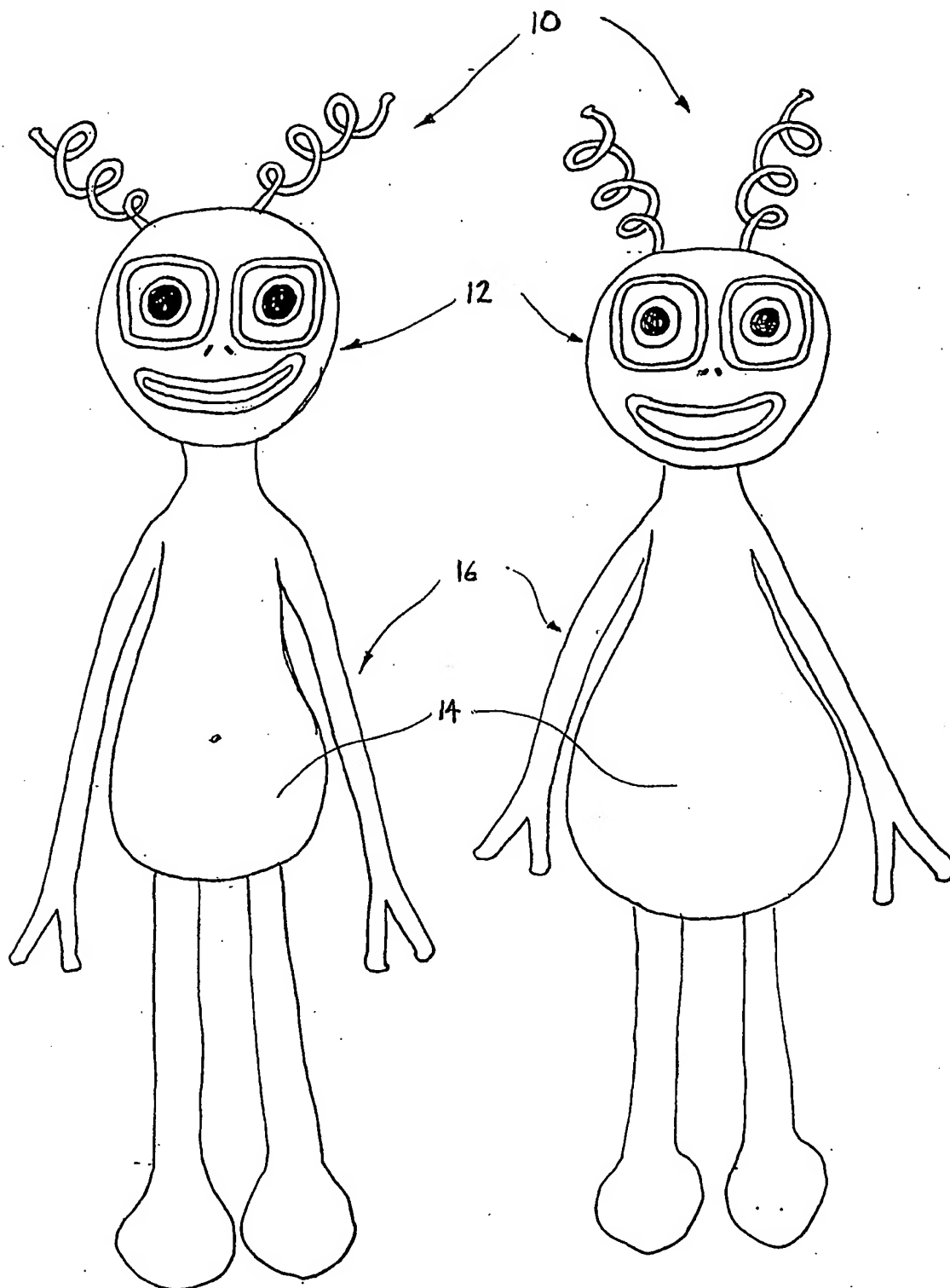


FIG. 1

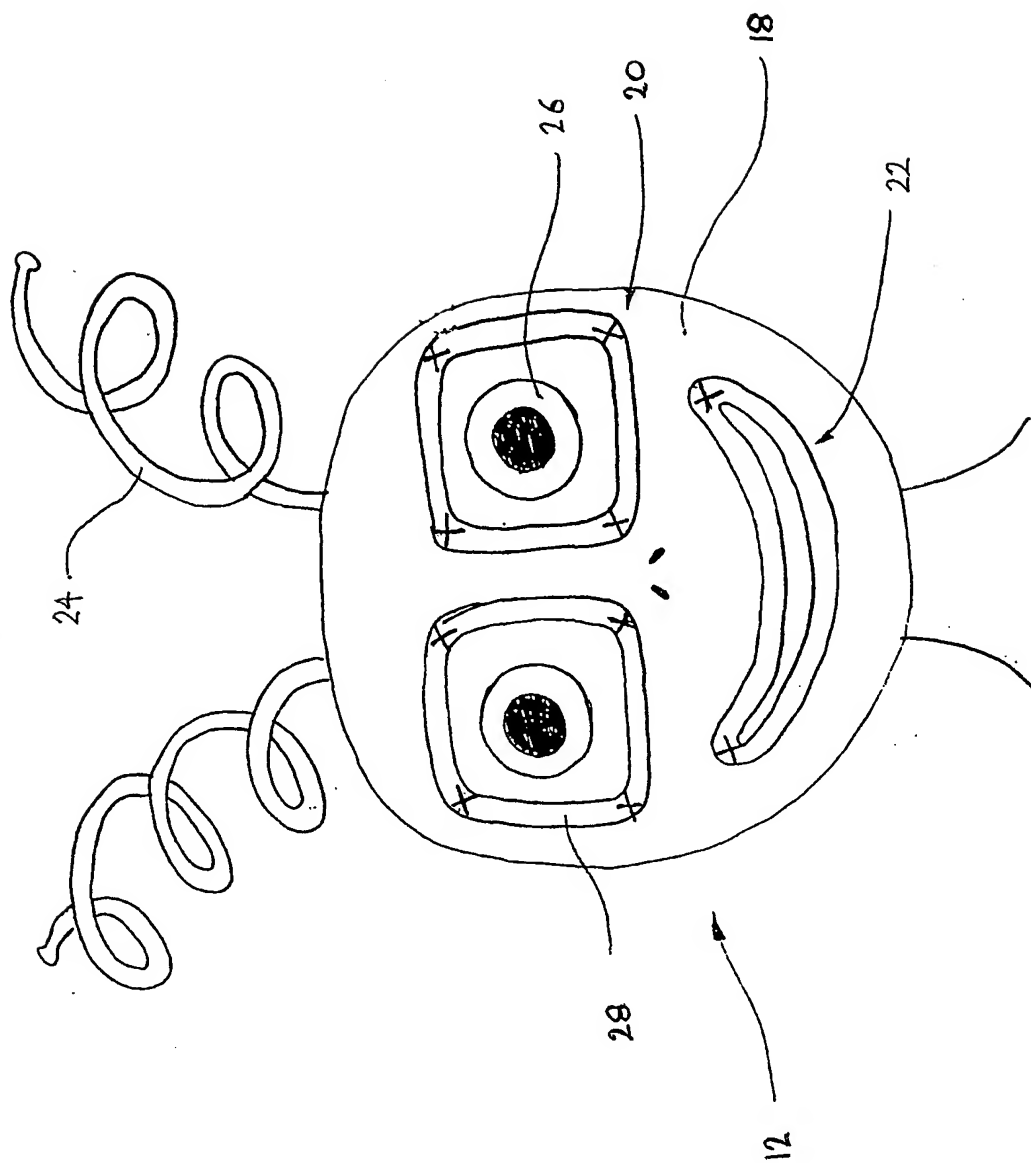
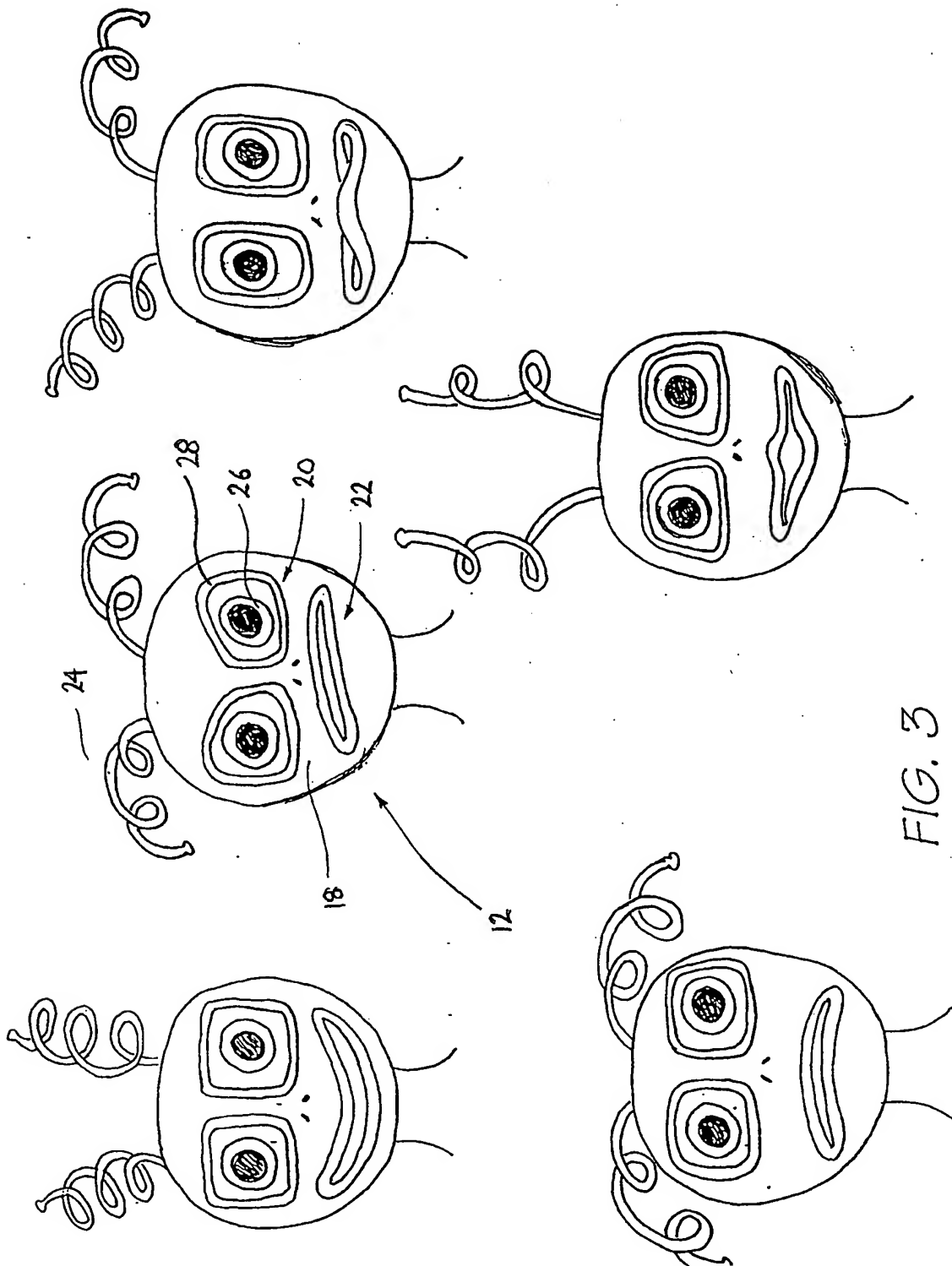


FIG. 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU01/00548

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : A63H 3/36		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC A63H 3/00, 3/04, 3/36, 3/38, 3/40, 3/42, 3/44		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI with keywords {eg A63H 3 (entire IPC class), face, change, plastic}		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 488434 A (HAUGHTON) 7 July 1938 Entire document	1-8
X	US 5348510 A (DuPONT et al) 20 September 1994 Entire document	1-8
X	US 4648851 A (ROSENBERG) 10 March 1987 Entire document	1, 8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 July 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 31 July 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer A. SEN Telephone No : (02) 6283 2158

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU01/00548

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5178574 A (EVOY) 12 January 1993 Entire document	1, 8
X	DE 3003558 A (KRUG) 20 August 1981 Entire document	1-8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU01/00548

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member
US	5348510	NONE
US	4648851	NONE
US	5178574	NONE
DE	3003558	NONE
		END OF ANNEX